

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PA-03 PRS-01 SCI-06 SS-15 NSC-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /073 W

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R 181548Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 473

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, US, UR

SUBJECT: WORKING CONDITIONS FOR AMERICAN PRESS IN MOSCOW

REF: STATE 135942

1. EMBASSY MOSCOW POLICY IS TO ENCOURAGE ALL U.S. VISITING GROUPS--SCIENTIFIC, COMMERCIAL, GOVERNMENT OR NON-GOVERNMENT--TO COOPERATE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE WITH LOCAL AMERICAN PRESS CORPS. VIRTUALLY ALL SUCH VISITING GROUPS ARE LISTED ON BI-WEEKLY EMBASSY VISITORS LIST WHICH IS MADE AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN PRESS, AND EMBASSY COMMONLY PLACES ITS PRESS RELATIONS FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL AT GROUPS' DISPOSAL, ADVISING, SCHEDULING AND HOLDING PRESS CONFERENCES IN AND OUT OF THE EMBASSY, NOTIFYING PRESS OF SAME BY EMBASSY TELEX, TYPING, REPRODUCING, DISTRIBUTING, AND SOMETIMES DRAFTING GROUPS' PRESS RELEASES, AND INSURING PRESS REPRESENTATION AT EMBASSY RECEPTIONS HELD FOR VISITING GROUPS.

2. AS DEPTTEL POINTS OUT, SITUATION HAS, IN EMBASSY VIEW, SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED IN CASE OF PRESS ACCESSIBILITY TO ENVIRONMENTAL (CEQ) GROUPS. EMBASSY WISHES TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH CEQ AND NASA GROUPS. ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS ACTIVELY SEEK AND ENCOURAGE EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE. EMBASSY TASK IN THIS CASE WAS TO PERSUADE SOVIETS TO PERMIT US PRESS

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REPRESENTATIVES TO HAVE ACCESS TO US DELEGATIONS AND TO PAR-

TICIPATE, IF POSSIBLE, IN THEIR FIELD TRIPS. SUCCESS HAS  
LARGELY BEEN ACHIEVED, THROUGH BOTH EMBASSY AND CEQ EFFORTS.  
ON OTHER HAND, NASA GROUPS APPARENTLY HAVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM  
HEADQUARTERS TO AVOID PRESS, SO PROBLEM IS QUITE DIFFERENT ONE.

3. SCOTT GROUP DID NOT MEET INDIVIDUALLY WITH US PRESS CORPS,  
DESPITE EMBASSY ENCOURAGEMENT TO DO SO. ON OTHER HAND, WE  
BELIEVE SHABAD IS BEING LESS THAN CANDID WHEN HE STATES THAT  
"SCOTT GROUP AVOIDED CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN PRESS." IN FAIRNESS,  
EMBASSY NOTES THAT IT KNOWS OF NO MAJOR EFFORTS ON PART OF U.S.  
PRESS TO REACH GROUP. SINCE IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT NASA GROUP  
WOULD HOLD FULL-SCALE PRESS CONFERENCE, SCIATT PERSONALLY  
TELEPHONED AS MANY CORRESPONDENTS AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING SHABAD,  
CORRESPONDENTS FOR LOS ANGELES TIMES, NEWSWEEK, MOSCOW AP AND  
UPI BUREAUS, ETC., TO INVITE THEM TO HANDLER'S JUNE 21 RECEPTION  
AT SPASO HOUSE AND EXPLICITLY TOLD THEM THAT IT WOULD OFFER CHANCE  
TO TALK WITH COL. SCOTT AND OTHER NASA OFFICIALS WHO WOULD ALSO  
BE PRESENT. PRESS TALKED ON THAT OCCASION WITH HANDLER, MRS.  
HANDLER, COL. SCOTT, AND OTHERS OF BOTH DELEGATIONS. IN THIS  
CASE, IT WOULD SEEM, SHABAD DID NOT TAKE INITIATIVE AND SEIZE  
OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY EMBASSY. SAME IS TRUE FOR FOURTH OF JULY  
RECEPTION AT WHICH SCOTT AND US PRESS WERE PRESENT.

4. HANDLER DID NOT SEEK CONTACT WITH PRESS, BECAUSE OF MIS-  
GIVINGS ABOUT POSSIBLY BEING MISQUOTED, ETC. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING  
SURPRISE SOVIET PRESS INTERVIEW, HE RESPONDED TO EMBASSY URGING  
AND HELD ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR CONFERENCE WITH AMERICAN NEWSMEN,  
INCLUDING SHABAD, ON DAY FOLLOWING SHABAD-GREENFIELD CABLE.  
DESPITE FACT THAT HANDLER GAVE FULL AND INFORMATIVE DESCRIPTION  
OF HIS ACTIVITIES AND NEW AREAS OF INTER-ACADEMY SCIENTIFIC  
COOPERATION AGREED UPON, SHABAD, IN CONTRAST WITH OTHER  
ATTENDEES, DECIDED IT WAS NOT NEWSWORTHY MATERIAL AND THERE-  
FORE DID NOT FILE ON CONFERENCE. HE LATER CHARACTERIZED NEWS  
CONFERENCE TO SCIATT AS "A BIG ZERO."

5. "TEXAS GROUP" REFERRED TO AVOIDED NOT ONLY U.S. PRESS BUT  
EMBASSY AS WELL, AND IN CASES OF THIS TYPE IT IS OBVIOUSLY  
BEYOND EMBASSY'S ABILITIES TO FACILITATE PRESS CONTACT AND  
WITHIN U.S. FIRMS'S RIGHTS TO AVOID SUCH CONTACT. EMBASSY WISHES  
NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IN CASES WHERE FIRM ANTI-PRESS PREDILECTION  
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NOT APPLICABLE, POST HAS SCHEDULED OR FACILITATED PRESS CON-  
FERENCES AND PRESS-INVITED RECEPTIONS FOR NUMBERS OF COMMERCIAL  
AND GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,  
SENATORIAL GROUP LED BY SEN. HUMPHREY, SECRETARY SHULTZ, CHASE  
MANHATTAN, MANUFACTURERS HANOVER TRUST AND GENERAL ELECTRIC.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DRAW ON ABOVE FOR REPLY TO GREENFIELD.

7. BETTER ACCESS TO NASA IN THE U.S.S.R. WILL ONLY BE ACHIEVED VIA POLICY DECISION BY NASA TO ALLOW WORKING-LEVEL GROUPS TO TALK TO U.S. PRESS--IN OUR OPINION, A MOST UNLIKELY EVENT. PROBLEM MIGHT BE EASED BY NASA AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC GROUPS COMING HERE BEING BRIEFED BEFORE DEPARTURE TO (A) REFUSE ALL REQUESTS--SOVIET OR AMERICAN--FOR PRESS CONFERENCES OR INTERVIEWS, POSSIBLY PROMISING A JOINT END-OF-STAY COMMUNIQUE, OR (B) GETTING SOVIETS TO AGREE TO JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE. IN GENERAL, GROUPS SHOULD BE COUNSELLED NOT TO GIVE TO ONE SIDE WHAT THEY REFUSE (BY OMISSION OR COMMISSION) THE OTHER, AND, IF THEIR WISH IS FOR A DISCREET VISIT, TO DISCOURAGE THEIR HOTS FROM GIVING REPORTS OF TALKS TO SOVIET NEWS-GATHERING AGENCIES.  
MELENCAMP

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